

June 6, 1955

Miss Ethelyn Lively  
Department of Bacteriology  
University of Illinois  
Urbana, Illinois

Dear Ethelyn:

Thank you for your cordial note.

I am really very pleased that you decided to take the position at Bristol-- I would not have recommended you if I did not believe and hope that you would be as happy with them as they with you. As you must have decided for yourself after your visit, this is no typical industrial laboratory. Dr. Menotti and Joe Lein are both very intelligent and imaginative people, and are willing to gamble quite a lot on the likelihood of success of a fundamental scientific approach. It would be a great boost to scientific microbiology if this does pay off; I know you will be doing your own best.

The greatest danger is that the company may not remain so prosperous, which might lead to pressure from the front office to focus on short-term objectives. You said you were trying the job on a tentative basis, and it will be time enough to worry about that if and when it happens.

We will probably see you at Syracuse some time or another. Until then, good luck and best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

*Joshua Lederberg*  
Joshua Lederberg

P.S. I hope you will have the discretion to keep these comments confidential.